



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,932	12/08/2003	Toshimitsu Konuma	0756-7221	9654
31780	7590	09/19/2007		
ERIC ROBINSON PMB 955 21010 SOUTHBANK ST. POTOMAC FALLS, VA 20165			EXAMINER NGO, HUYEN LE	
			ART UNIT 2871	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/19/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/728,932	Applicant(s) TOSHIMITSU KONUMA	
	Examiner Julie-Huyen L. Ngo	Art Unit 2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 24, 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Banda (US4231639) in view of Ohkubo et al. (US4878742), and further in view of Kanemoto et al. (US5250214A).

Banda teaches (col. 2, lines 48-64) forming a display device comprising:

Claims 6, 11-12, 17, 22-23 and 28:

- a pair of substrates (not shown but inherently included)
- a liquid crystal layer provided between said pair of substrates and comprising a nematic liquid crystal

Art Unit: 2871

- a pair of orientation films provided adjacent to and between said pair of substrates respectively and having anti-parallel orientation directions to each other (col. 2, lines 62-64);

wherein

- each of the pair of substrates is provided with only one of the orientation films.
- the liquid crystal layer always contact with the orientation films that inherently have the surface tension due to the surface pressure of the liquid crystal layer acting on the orientation films.

(Claims 7, 13, 18 and 24)

- each of said orientation films comprises a polyimide (col. 9, lines 14-18).

(Claims 9, 15, 20 and 26)

- in order to apply voltage between liquid crystal layer, a first electrode inherently provided over one of said substrates; and a second electrode inherently provided over the other of said substrates

Claim 10, 16, 21 and 27:

- a nematic liquid crystal having positive dielectric anisotropy (cited in claim 1 of reference Banda);

Claims 29-30:

- the orientation films have been rubbed in inherently one direction, thus almost all liquid crystal molecules of liquid crystal layer are substantially aligned in one direction.

However, Banda fails to teach:

(a) forming spacing between said substrates is less than 3.5 μm (claims 6, 12 and 17);

(b) the orientation films with a surface tension of 40 dyne/cm or more (claims 6 and 12);

(c) forming their device as a reflective-type display device (claims 8, 14, 19 and 25)

With respect to claims 6, 12 and 17:

Ohkubo et al. teach (a) forming spacing between said substrates is less than 3.5 μm for extinguishing diffraction without disturbance (col. 9, lines 23-27).

Kanemoto et al. teach (col. 26, lines 53-64) forming the orientation film with a surface tension of not smaller than 40 dyne/cm for spreading the LC polymer in its LC phase uniformly on a coated surface of an orientation film

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Banda display device with (a) spacing between said substrates is less than 3.5 μm for extinguishing diffraction without disturbance (col. 9 lines 23-27), as Ohkubo et al. taught; and (b) orientation films having a surface tension of 40 dyne/cm or more for spreading the LC polymer in its LC phase uniformly on a coated surface of the orientation films, as taught by Kanemoto et al.;

With respect to claims 8, 14, 19 and 25:

It is well known in the art for a display device to be formed as a reflective-type display device by having a reflection layer formed on surface of lower substrate for reflecting ambient light. Doing so would reduce power consumption and having a brighter display.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to form Banda display with (c) a reflection layer on a surface of the lower substrate for reflecting ambient light. Doing so would reduce power consumption and having a brighter display.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie-Huyen L. Ngo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2295. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 2871

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Julie-Huyen L. Ngo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2871